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Representative  
Judy Clibborn

# 2007 Session Highlights

### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2007 Legislative Session has just adjourned and it was a pleasure to represent you. This session will be remembered as a success, especially for education, health care and economic development.

In my first year as Chair of the Transportation Committee, I am pleased to report that we passed an overwhelmingly bipartisan budget. This \$7.4 billion budget keeps the promises made by the Legislature in 2003 with the ‘Nickel’ gas tax package, and again in 2005 with the Transportation Partnership Account. We accomplished this by sticking to the promised project lists,

keeping a close eye on gas tax expenditures, and saying no to new projects.

Inside, you will find information on just a few of the policy goals we also accomplished. Thank you for taking time to review these, and please send me any questions or comments you have.

I look forward to serving you again next session and continuing our partnership in making our community a better place to work and raise our families.

Sincerely,  
*Judy Clibborn*

## Health Care

### Covering All Kids (SB 5093)

One of my proudest moments came early in the legislative session when we approved the Children’s Health Bill – a plan that provides health insurance for 38,000 more kids. The Children’s Health Bill puts us ahead of schedule in reaching the goal of insuring every child by 2010.

The plan is pretty simple. The state provides health insurance to children in families making less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

In 2009, families making between 250 and 300 percent of the federal poverty level may put their kids on the plan for \$15 per month for each child covered. Families making over \$60,000 can also buy into the plan without any state subsidy.



### Health Insurance Partnership (HB 1569)

I also supported a measure to build upon a small employer health insurance subsidy program we passed last year.

In this three-way partnership between employers, employees and the state, employers will decide how much they want to contribute to the cost of their employees’ coverage. Employees will then be able to use pre-tax dollars to pay their share of the premium and have a choice of plans. Low-income employees will be able to get help

from the state to pay their share of the premium. As an added bonus, these plans belong to the employee and can be taken with them if they change jobs. This gives workers the opportunity to have coverage between jobs, if they become self-employed or if they get a job with an employer that doesn’t offer health coverage.



## State Representative Judy Clibborn 41st Legislative District

# 2007 Session Highlights



**While I am focused on finding solutions to our state transportation problems, my number one priority is making sure that your voice is heard in Olympia. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have.**



# Representative Judy Clibborn

# 2007 Session Highlights



## Transportation – keeping our region moving

As Chair of the House Transportation Committee, I believe the solutions to our transportation problems are found in regional partnerships. I am committed to working with state, local and regional leaders to address these problems and develop the most cost effective and accountable system possible.

The 2007-09 Transportation Budget keeps over 430 projects on track and supports at least 25,000 jobs – and by some estimates, as many as 100,000 jobs.

**Local Projects** This is going to be the biggest summer on record for road and highway projects in our region. For up-to-date project and traffic information, please use the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) website [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov).

**Widening I-405** The eight-mile stretch between Bellevue and Renton is one of the most congested sections of freeway in the state. Construction will start this summer to widen this section of I-405 between SE 8th Avenue in Bellevue down to Renton. This project will increase traffic flow by 50 percent, improve safety, and will be completed in time for school to start in 2009.

**Adding HOV lanes to I-90** Reversible HOV lanes run down the middle of the I-90 floating bridge. Traffic moves westbound in the mornings and eastbound in the evenings. Anyone who uses this corridor knows traffic is getting worse in both directions during the morning and evening commutes. Buses and carpools traveling in the opposite direction of the center-lane are getting stuck in the congestion, especially on game days.

WSDOT and Sound Transit are working together to add an HOV lane in each direction of the I-90 bridge. As the first step, they are building a new direct-access HOV on- and off-ramp at 80th and 77th Avenues SE on Mercer Island and modifying the existing ramps at Bellevue Way to provide direct access to the HOV lanes. Construction is under way and the final project will be completed in late summer of 2009.

## Mega Project updates

While there are over 430 projects funded in the 2007-09 Transportation Budget, two projects have grabbed the most headlines – the Viaduct and SR 520 bridge replacement projects.

**Alaskan Way Viaduct** – This project remains on schedule and preliminary work will begin in September. We will spend \$915 million working on projects in this corridor that are required regardless of what final plans look like, allowing us to get started without wasting any time or money waiting for the final design. Meanwhile, the Governor will convene a collaborative process to reach agreement on a design.



**520 bridge** – The Governor has announced that the preferred alternative for this structure will include six lanes. I fully support this decision. The budget identifies more funding for this project, including access to a \$1 billion risk pool and \$200 million more from federal transit funds.

About \$3.2 billion has been directed toward the project including \$1.1 billion in regional funding that requires voter approval in November. We are looking at tolling and other options to cover the remaining costs. WSDOT will prepare a complete finance

plan for the Legislature to consider next year.

Most importantly, WSDOT will locate a site to begin construction of the pontoons that will support the new bridge and we will start the Draft Environmental Impact Statement process – both essential to getting started and not losing time or money. The Governor will also hire a mediator to help resolve issues with the surrounding neighborhoods, parks and the University of Washington on the Seattle side.



## Simple Majority question goes to voters

Right now, public schools must receive 60 percent of the total vote for approval of levy funding. This year, the Legislature agreed to give voters the chance to say whether they agree with this Super Majority requirement or if they think it's outdated.

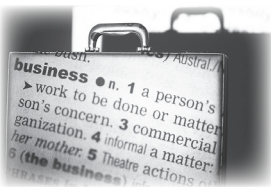
School levies are used to fund a wide variety of educational activities, and our local schools rely on them to keep our children learning at a level that makes them competitive with the world economy they will be working.

This policy was originally added to our state's Constitution in 1944 and, during the 63 years since, the public has not been given an opportunity to voice their opinion on this policy. I think it is wrong for a minority of voters to be able to dictate whether schools receive the funds they need. While 59 percent is a landslide win for any politician, 59 percent should not mean defeat for our kids.



## Supporting Small Business

During my time as Executive Director of the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce, I worked with small business owners to help their operations succeed. Here are a few ways I think we were able to help small business in Olympia this year.



### Reducing unemployment insurance rates for start-ups (HB 1278/SB 5137)

In the past, new employers were charged slightly more than the industry average because they typically have a higher rate of failure and, therefore, more employees seeking benefits. We made the unemployment insurance contribution rate for new businesses equal to the rate that is the average for their industry. The change will save start-ups an estimated \$10 million a year.

### Linked deposit program (HB 1512/SB 5666)

The linked deposit program aims to increase access to business capital for the state's certified minority-owned and women-owned businesses through reduced interest rate loans. We increased the amount for the linked deposit program from \$100 million to \$150 million.



### Regulatory fairness for small business (HB 1525)



We created a process for small business owners to petition unfairly burdensome regulations. Small Business Economic Impact Statements are also required for many state agencies when making rules. If the impact statement shows a disproportionate effect on small businesses, agencies have to develop a remedy.

## Capital Budget Projects



The state Capital Budget is used for community and economic development projects across the state. It is also funds school construction and facilities maintenance for state colleges and universities.

Here are some of the good projects in the 2007-09 Capital Budget for our community that I supported:

- Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue, \$800,000
- Mercer Slough Environmental Center, \$1.5 million
- Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE), \$2 million
- Bellevue Community College, \$33.5 million
- Renton Technical College, \$1.5 million